capacity available with Food Corpo- I yana States as on 1.4.1994 was as ration of India in Punjab and Har- I under:—

(figure in lakh tonnes)

State	Total capacity	Stocks	Vacant space
Punjab	58.05	51.33	6.72
Haryana . . .	16.42	10.76	5.66

Food Cororation of India has taken steps for augmenting storage capacity throughout the country to meet the growing requirement of enhanced procurement and to ensure smooth functioning of procurement operations. During 1993.94 the Corporation hired an additional capacity of about 4.4 milion tonnes.

In addition to the above, the Field Officers have been delegated powers to hire additional capacity for accommodating wheat jn both procu-ring consuming areas.

The total storage capacity of Food Corporation of India in the count ry as on 1.4.1994 was around 24 million tonnes which would take care of the procurement require ments.

(c) & (d) No targets for procurement of wheat are fixed as the same is procured under Price Support Scheme on voluntary basis. The actual procurement of wheat by all Government agencies during the last three Rabi Seasons and the estimated procurement of wheet during the current Rabi Season in Punjab and Hsryana is indicated below: —

(In lakh tonne?)

Year	Punjab	Haryana
1991-92	55.42	18.34
1992-93	44.88	13.72
1993.94	64.95	34.54
1994-95 (estimated)	70.00	27.00

Upto 3CKh April, 1994 the Punjab region has procured 33.20 lakh tonnes and Haryana Region has procured 17.13 lakh tonnes.

Storage of essential commoditites FCT/OWC in Orissa

7166. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in certain districts of Orissa there is no provision for storage *at* essential commodities by Food Cor poration of India and Central Ware housing Corporation; and

(b) whether Food Corporation of India is planning to create additional storage space in (i) remote and hil-]■- districts like Koraput, Kalahan. di, Nawapara, Phulbari, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar *(i[)* in high procurement potential districts like Bargarh-Sambalpi^r-Bolwngir-Sonapfur, Gan-| jm Gajapet disticts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAT) (a) Yes, Sir. Til] 31.3.93. there were 13 Revenue Districts in Orissa, out of which Food Corporation of India owned depots were in operation in all districts except, in cuttack and Mayur-hhanj. After re-oranisation of revenue districts increasing the number to 30-12 revenue districts namely, kendrapars, Puri. Navagarh, Gaja_ pati, Boudh, Deogarh, Newapara, Malkangiri, Jajpur, Jagatsingpur,

Bolangir and Cuttack, remain without Food Corporation of India owned depot. The essential commodities for these districts are being stored in the nearest depots of the adjacent districts in the godowns hired from other Agencies and private parties.

Central Warehousing Corporation is operatin its 10 warehouses in 7 districts in the State of Orissa, namely Bargarh, Ganjam, Jeypore, Sa_ mbalpur, Jajpur Road, Cuttak and Khurda,

(b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India has proposed to construct godowns at the following places.

During 1993-94, a capacity of 10,000 Metric Tonnes has been completed at Badampahar in revenue dis trict Mayurbhanj.

Centre	Revenue District
1. Rayagada	Rayagada
2. Attabira	Bargarh
3. Umeiri	Koraput
4. Kesinga	Kalahandi

it is not practical/economically vi. able to have pood Corporation of India owned godown in each revenue district. The construction of additional capacity is undertaken by Food Corpo*?.ltion of India keeping in v{ew the requirement and availability of suitable land/funds.

Stopping of rice procurement by FCI

7167. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged Food Corporation of India to stop procurement of rice; and

(b) if so, what measures Government intend to take to prevent farmers to Bell their additional production in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAT): (a) Government have decided not to accept levy rice beyond the statutory limit in any of the States. However, in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa which are having two distinct procurement seasons for paddy, it has been agreed to accept the levy levy ricein excess of statutory limit prescribed for a particular season to be adjusted in due course for the whole year.

(b) Paddy i_s being procured by the Food Corporation of India and State procuring agencies from farmers at Minimum Support Prices under price support scheme through 6237 purchase centres opened during kharif marketing season 1993-94. Government is continuously monitoring implementation of the price support scheme for rabi and kharif foodgrains and all efforts are made to ensure that farmers are not compelled to a pell their produce below the Minimum Support Price.

Effect of export of basmatl rice on price of foodgrains

7168. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision to export Basmati rice is in keeping with the general prescription Included in the structural adjustment programme;

(b) whether this decision will effect the price of Basmati; and

(c) if so, whether this will have a cascading effect on the price of other varieties of rice and other staple foodgrajns? ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAT): fa) to (c) OPEN-xport of Basmati rice has been al-lowed for the last many years. Export of Basmati rice provides[1] the